

REMARKS

By this Amendment the features of previous claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, and claim 2 has been cancelled. The dependencies of claims 3, 5 and 12 have also been amended to depend from amended claim 1. Claims 1 and 3-15 are presented for further examination.

The rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 USC §103(a) over the combined disclosures of Heckert, US 6,705,238; Langewellpott, DE 41 06 371 and Heide, US 4,534,544 is respectfully traversed.

The presently claimed invention relates to a scissor lift mechanism comprising at least two scissor elements connected in pairs at a swivel axis and a drive for raising or lowering the scissor elements via a traction member. At least two coupling bridges each having a pair of swivelable thrust struts are connected to respective scissor elements, and a reversing roller for the traction member is carried on one of the coupling bridges, while the traction member is attached to the other of the coupling bridges.

Heckert and Heide each disclose scissor lift mechanisms which operate according to the spreader principle in which the scissor arms of scissor elements are spread apart by means of a spreader body which is moved by a traction element, such as a chain which is guided on a reversing roller connected to one of the scissor arms. Neither of these arrangements uses a coupling bridge or thrust struts. Instead, the spreader body lies in direct contact with the scissor arms of the scissor elements. The spreader body of Heckert comprises a lifting truck (6) and the spreader body of Heide takes the form of a roller (15). The use of a coupling bridge and/or thrust struts in such a device is not only unnecessary, but actually would serve no purpose. Thus, there is no reason why a person skilled in the art would seek to incorporate at least two coupling bridges with associated thrust struts in the devices of either Heckert or Heide.

Langewellpott, on the other hand, discloses a scissor lift mechanism comprising two coupling bridges arranged on opposite sides of the pivot axis which are pivotably connected to the scissor arms of the scissor elements via thrust struts. Spacing of the coupling bridges and consequent elevation of the

lifting table is regulated by a motorized threaded spindle (30) which engages a threaded nut affixed to one of the coupling bridges.

Even if a person skilled in the art were to attempt to combine the teachings of Heckert and Heide on the one hand, and Langewellpott on the other, the result would not correspond to the presently claimed invention, but instead would most likely be a scissor lift which operated according to the spreader principle using the spreader body moved by a rotating threaded spindle. Thus, the cited documents fail to make out a proper *prima facie* case of obviousness of the presently claimed invention, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #100940.53288US).

Respectfully submitted,

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